

# Literary Retreats

AS LIBRARIES CLIMB TO THE TOP OF CLIENTS' WISH LISTS, DESIGNERS RESPOND WITH ARRESTING ROOMS FOR MORE THAN JUST READING.

WRITTEN BY MAILE PINGEL



Designers have long delighted in creating home libraries. In fact, legendary decorator Dorothy Draper even encouraged the idea among her bibliophile clientele. “Don’t hesitate to start a library, a collection of books on any subject that interests you is a joy to have!” remarked Draper. But today’s libraries serve as more than just a refuge for reading—they are spaces to gather with family and entertain guests. Ranging from studious to swank, libraries can project a

refined spirit or a joyful energy. Whether you prefer books, magazines or reading on your favorite device, a library provides “a different environment within the home,” explains designer Michael Aiduss. “It’s about shutting the rest of the world off, collecting your thoughts and feeling a sense of relaxation.” But designer Joe Lucas warns playfully: be ready to shop as it always takes more books to fill a library than one anticipates!

“We turned this Charlotte, North Carolina, **living room into a snug library, but it’s really like a family room.** Wood built-ins and gold-flecked red wallpaper feel unexpected, while **a hidden bar makes it a great place to have drinks** with guests or simply enjoy the cozy atmosphere.”

—BARRIE BENSON, BARRIE BENSON INTERIOR DESIGN

PHOTO: BRIE WILLIAMS.

**“It’s all about creating an enveloping ambiance** with comfortable places to sit, beautiful lighting and good acoustics to quiet any noise. **Books help to create an alluring atmosphere**, but don’t forget to think about a ‘wow’ factor and scale, too—like the large antique globe we used in this Greenwich, Connecticut, library—as well as **displaying collections that resonate with you.**”

—MICHAEL AIDUSS, MICHAEL AIDUSS INTERIORS + ARCHITECTURE



**“Adding a little whimsy, like the velvet tête-à-tête** in the middle of this Los Altos, California, library, **makes the space feel fun**, plus there’s a games table for the kids and a pair of wing chairs for the adults. **It shifts the center of focus away from the kitchen** to create a place where this family of readers can relax together.”

—ANN LOWENGART, ANN LOWENGART INTERIORS



**“Give your library a more modern vibe with a pretty paint color—try picking a shade from a book spine and add pull-out shelves to create an extra work surface.** To enliven the stone fireplace in an Agoura Hills, California, library, we used a scratch-resistant semi-gloss paint.”

—JOE LUCAS, LUCAS STUDIO, INC.

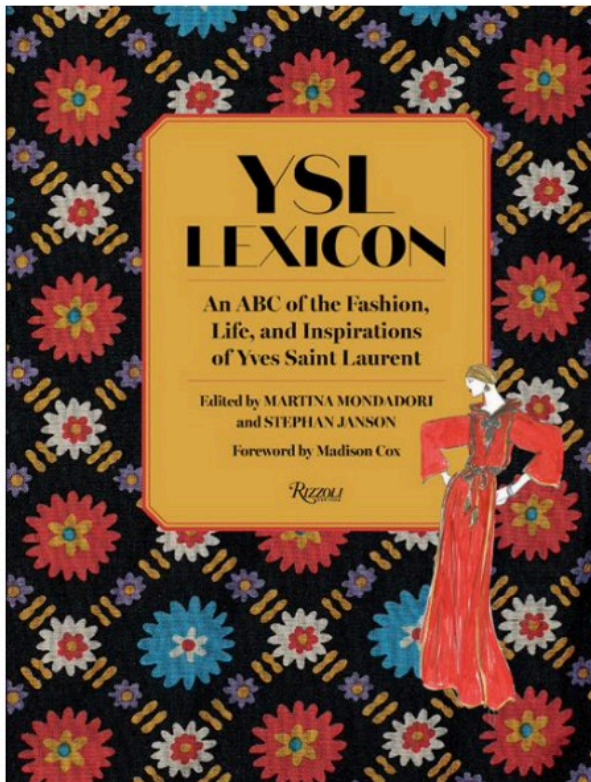
# Required Reading

FOUR NEW TITLES TO UP THE INTRIGUE—AND BEAUTY—OF YOUR HOME LIBRARY

## **YSL Lexicon: An ABC of the Fashion, Life, and Inspirations of Yves Saint Laurent**

Edited by Martina Mondadori and Stephan Janson

Its publication timed to commemorate Yves Saint Laurent's first runway show 60 years ago, the new tome, edited by *Cabana* founder Martina Mondadori and designer Stephan Janson, a co-curator of the current pan-Paris exhibition, *Yves Saint Laurent Aux Musées*, explores the many facets of YSL's life through a playful exploration of words. "Our book," write Mondadori and Janson, "seeks to offer a series of evocations in the form of an alphabet, using the words he liked, those which had a particular meaning for him." Taking on the people, places and concepts that inspired the designer are a host of high-profile contributors including Hamish Bowles on Haute Couture and Marian McEvoy on Jardin Majorelle. Illustrating the book are images from YSL's archive, set against lavish textiles in truly iconic style. [rizzoliusa.com](http://rizzoliusa.com)



## **Vibrant Interiors: Living Large at Home**

By Andrea Monath Schumacher

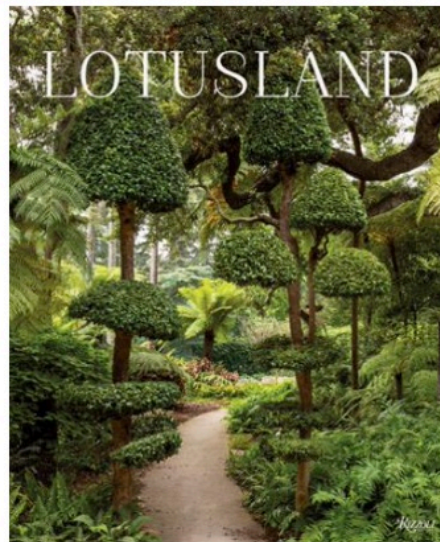
"I poured through my portfolio and chose exclusive projects—it felt like the right time to show them," says the designer of her debut book. Colorful inspiration abounds, along with Monath Schumacher's helpful design tips: faux bois cut velvet elevates a beachy vibe, while a red front door encourages good luck and positive energy. "I want readers to be inspired to live large at home, and this book shows them where, and how, to take risks." [gibbs-smith.com](http://gibbs-smith.com)



## **Lotusland**

Forward by Marc Appleton

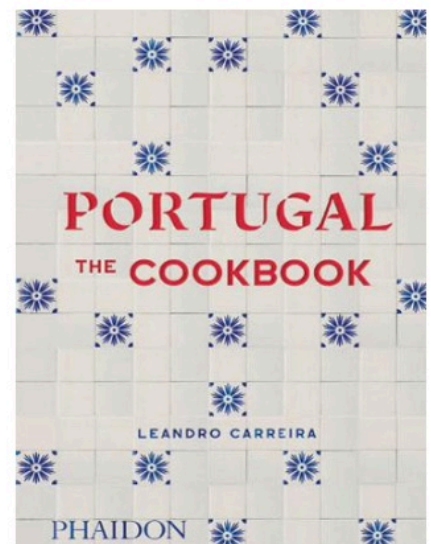
Only an opera singer could envision a garden as theatrical as the famed Lotusland in Montecito, California, and Ganna Walska's botanical masterpiece—featuring more than 3,400 plants—has been captivating visitors for 30 years. "Hers was obsessive botanical collecting," writes architect Marc Appleton. Featuring photographs by Lisa Romerein, *Lotusland* is a verdant treat for anyone enchanted by gardens. [rizzoliusa.com](http://rizzoliusa.com)



## **Portugal: The Cookbook**

By Leandro Carreira

In chef Leandro Carreira's new cookbook, the London-based chef pays homage to the culinary history of his native Portugal. Featuring some 550 recipes, Carreira shares dishes from across his homeland, including Alentejo-style gazpacho, Algarvian seafood dishes and macaroons from a 13th-century convent. Recipes also include insights into traditional cookware, like the *cataplana*, a metal pot that originated in North Africa and is frequently used in Portuguese cooking. [phaidon.com](http://phaidon.com)



PHOTOS: LOTUSLAND, LISA ROMEREIN; VIBRANT INTERIORS: LIVING LARGE AT HOME, WILLIAM ABRAMOWICZ